

For Immediate Release

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Gordon Bernhardt Joins BEST Kids, Inc. Board of Directors

Washington, DC – August 13, 2012 – BEST Kids, Inc. announced today that Gordon J. Bernhardt, president and founder of [Bernhardt Wealth Management](#) has joined the organization’s board of directors.

“Gordon’s business knowledge and financial expertise will help the organization build a solid foundation for the future,” said Todd Leibbrand, [BEST Kids, Inc.](#) founder and board member. “I am delighted to have him join the BEST Kids board.”

Bernhardt, a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Planner™ professional and Accredited Investment Fiduciary, currently serves as president of Bernhardt Wealth Management, an independent financial planning and investment advisory firm helping clients achieve current and long-term financial goals.

“I am honored to join the BEST Kids, Inc. board and work with this dedicated team,” Bernhardt said. “The entire staff and pool of volunteers at BEST Kids demonstrate an undeniable passion for helping children in the foster care system, who too often fall through the cracks. I look forward to contributing to the future direction and growth of this essential cause.”

Research shows that caring adults can make a difference in children’s lives. Forty-five percent of mentored teens are less likely to use drugs. Fifty-nine percent of mentored teens have better academic performance. Seventy-three percent of mentored teens achieve higher goals generally. Children that have mentors have better relationships with adults, fewer disciplinary referrals, and more confidence to achieve their goals.¹

Through the work of committed volunteer mentors, BEST Kids strives to help children in the foster care system establish a positive relationship with a trusted adult. Working with children as young as six and continuing, as needed, until adulthood, mentors works to enable youth to develop a positive sense of self, to acquire teamwork and group social skills, and to become productive members of society.

“In many cases, the mentor is the only positive role model in the child's life,” explained Bernhardt who has been involved with the mentoring program for XX years prior to joining the board of directors. “Without their mentor, many would never discover the kind of possibilities their future could hold.”

About BEST Kids

BEST Kids is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that seeks to promote better futures for youth in the District of Columbia’s child welfare system by developing and supporting one-on-one mentoring relationships between the youth and caring, consistent adults. BEST Kids Mentoring Program is guided by the belief that all children are talented. Through one-on-one volunteer mentoring, extensive training, staff support and experiential-learning-based peer group, adults encourage youth to discover and develop their unique skills and abilities. For more information or to learn how to get involved, visit www.Bestkids.org.

About Bernhardt Wealth Management

Having received much recognition within the investment advisor industry over the years, Bernhardt Wealth Management was recently named a 2012 Five Star Wealth Manager in the Washington D.C. area by Five Star Professional in *D.C. Modern Luxury* magazine. They have also been named one of the "People You Can Trust with Your Money" by *Washingtonian* magazine, a Top Registered Investment Advisor in *Financial Advisor* magazine, a Top Wealth Manager by *Wealth Manager* magazine, and a Top Financial Professional in *Northern Virginia* magazine. Sought out for their financial insights, Bernhardt Wealth Management has served as a resource for such media outlets as *Wall Street Journal*, *MSN Money*, *CNN Money*, *Kiplinger*, *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, among others. For more information about Gordon Bernhardt or Bernhardt Wealth Management, visit www.BernhardtWealth.com.

¹ S. 420: Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2011; <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/s420/text>

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